

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Vessel (1) for the metallurgical treatment of pig iron, steel melts, and the like, especially a converter vessel (1a), which is supported on a trunnion ring (3) spaced some distance (2) from the vessel, which trunnion ring (3) can be tilted by means of trunnions in rocker bearings on both sides, wherein claws (6) distributed along the circumference of the vessel wall (1b) rest on the upper flange (3a) of the trunnion ring (3), and wherein a support (4) is designed to be releasably mounted on the upper flange (3a) of the trunnion ring (3) by means of additional mounting fixtures, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the support (4) on the upper flange (3a) of the trunnion ring (3) consists of opposing vessel brackets (7) and trunnion ring brackets (8), which can be tensioned together in a closing direction (10) by means of a hinged closure (9) until a secure closed position (11) is achieved and which can be easily released in the opposite operating direction (12).

2. (Currently Amended) Vessel in accordance with Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the hinged closure (9) consists of a clamp (13), which embraces the vessel bracket (7) and is rotatably supported on an operating lever (14), such that the

upper end (14a) of the operating lever (14) is rotatably supported on the trunnion ring bracket (8).

3. (Currently Amended) Vessel in accordance with ~~Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the clamp (13) embraces the vessel bracket (7) in the closing direction (10) and rests against the outer peripheral surface (3c) of the trunnion ring (3) in the closed position (11) and that the operating lever (14) is locked with lock bolts (15) mounted on the clamps (13) on both sides.

4. (Currently Amended) Vessel in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 3, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein during an opening movement of the operating lever (14) from the peripheral surface (3c) of the trunnion ring (3) towards the outside, the clamp (13) can be rotated over the vessel bracket (7) until an open position (16) is reached.

5. (Currently Amended) Vessel in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 4, characterized by the fact that,~~ Claim 1, wherein, in the side profile (7a), the vessel bracket (7) forms a lower recess (7b), in which the trunnion ring bracket (8) finds space with clearance.

6. (Currently Amended) Vessel in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 5~~, characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein the vessel bracket (7) consists of two bracket plates (17) arranged laterally with fixed spacing (7c).

7. (Currently Amended) Vessel in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 5~~, characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein the vessel bracket (7) consists of a single, correspondingly thickly dimensioned bracket plate (18).

8. (Currently Amended) Vessel in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 5~~, characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein the trunnion ring bracket (8) consists of a single, correspondingly dimensioned bracket plate (19).

9. (Currently Amended) Vessel in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 8~~, characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein the clamp (13) consists of two spaced, parallel clamping cover plates (13a; 13a), which are connected at their ends (13b) by a transverse spacer element (20), or are rotatably connected with spaced trunnion ring bracket plates (8a), such that in a middle, thick trunnion ring bracket (8), the spacer element (20) holds lever cover plates (21) for the operating lever (14) and forms its pivot bearing (22).

10. (Currently Amended) Vessel in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 6 and 8 and 9~~, characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein the operating lever (14) consists of two spaced, parallel lever cover plates (21), which are connected by transverse spacer elements (20) and form the pivot bearing (22).

11. (Currently Amended) Vessel in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 5 and 8 and 9~~, characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein a clamping element (23) consists of a tension lever arm (24), which runs between the spaced, parallel vessel brackets (7) and between spaced trunnion ring bracket plates (8a), is connected to the pivot bearing (22) connecting the two lever cover plates (21), runs between two trunnion ring bracket plates (8a), and has a hammerhead (25) that rests on the bracket plates.

12. (Currently Amended) Vessel in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 6 and 8 to 11~~, characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein the tension lever arm (24) runs between two trunnion ring bracket plates (8a) and forms an oval, closed clamp (26) that embraces the vessel bracket (7).